

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are presently pending, and claims 26 and 27 are new.

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesy extended during the interview on August 22, 2006. The substance of the interview set forth in the Interview Summary is hereby adopted.

The Examiner's indication that claims 21 and 25 are allowable is noted with appreciation.

Claim 23 was rejected as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Claim 23 has been amended to address the rejection by clarifying that the tab is partially connected to the integrated removable portion via a hinge. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, in paragraph [0081] of the application.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 13, 15 and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,322,655 to Casagrande. Claims 4, 7-10 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Casagrande in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,736,212 to Fischer. Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Casagrande. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2-13, 15, 17-20 and 22-24 are not unpatentable over the cited references.

None of the references disclose an integrated tab comprising a portion of the base layer and being surrounded on at least three sides by the integrated removable portion, as presently recited in claims 1, 22. Casagrande also does not disclose an integrated tab surrounded on at least three sides by the integral removable portion, as presently recited in claims 14 and 24. The Office action asserts that the perimeter portions 150 of Casagrande are integrated tabs and that the enclosed shape 47 is an integrated removable portion. However, the perimeter portions 150 of Casagrande are not surrounded on at least three sides by enclosed shape 47.

With respect to claim 23, there is no disclosure in Casagrande that the perimeter portions 150 are partially connected to the enclosed shape 47 via a hinge. Instead, Casagrande discloses that there are cuts 146 between the perimeter portions and the enclosed shape 47.

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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 13, 15 and 22-24 are allowable, and reconsideration of claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 13, 15 and 22-24 and allowance of claims 1-25 are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in this application to Deposit Account No. 06-135.

Respectfully submitted,

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